

6 Jan 1950

REPORT BY THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION STAFF

to the

DIRECTOR

on

AN OUTLINE PLAN FOR OVERT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IN THE INITIAL STAGES
OF WAR

THE PROBLEM

1. To prepare an outline plan for overt psychological warfare in the initial stages of war.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. War might occur at any time as a result of overt Soviet action. Further data with reference to enemy and friendly capabilities is contained in Appendix I to the Enclosure.

3. A national psychological warfare organization is not now in existence.

4. Upon the inception of armed conflict and continuously thereafter, the U.S. Government will employ psychological warfare measures to further the achievement of national aims.

5. An outline plan for overt psychological warfare in the initial stages of war is prerequisite to the development of detailed plans for the initial and subsequent stages.

Document No. 16
THE C.I.A. HAS NO OBJECTION
TO THE DECLASSIFICATION OF
THIS DOCUMENT.
AUTHORITY: HR 70-2
REVIEWER 19960 DATE 24/1/80

DOCUMENT NO. 16
CIA HAS DETERMINED THAT THIS DOCUMENT
MAY BE DECLASSIFIED SUBJECT TO REVIEW
BY: 19960

AUTHORITY: HR 70-2

REVIEWER: 19960 DATE 24/1/80

~~SECRET~~

DOCUMENT NO. 16
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
UNCLASSIFIED
CLASS CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: REVIEWER: 019360

SECRET

-2-

DISCUSSION

6. The National Security Council has approved the preparation of plans for psychological warfare in time of war. Such plans will include basic policies, programs, and organizational requirements for the world-wide conduct of psychological warfare operations. These plans, during the course of their preparation, will be coordinated with the Department of State, the Department of Defense, with other appropriate departments and agencies of the U.S. Government, and with related planning under the NSC-10 series.

7. Since war might occur at any time and with no previous warning, realistic planning for psychological warfare operations at the outset must be based upon the utilization of available personnel and facilities now in being. Current emergency planning for the initial stages of war, therefore, must of necessity be restricted to current capabilities. Enhancement or diminution of capabilities will be appropriately reflected in periodic revisions of Emergency Plans.

8. The value and importance of effecting rapid transition from peacetime to wartime operations and launching a dynamic psychological warfare offensive at the very beginning of the war cannot be overestimated. Delays of even hours or minutes in the first few days of conflict may gravely impair the success of later efforts.

9. The nucleus of a psychological warfare planning and policy staff exists today in the Public Affairs area of the Department of State; certain personnel and facilities for overt psychological war-

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

of State. Additional personnel and facilities are available to the Secretary of Defense and to the Director of Central Intelligence.

10. In addition, there now exists an interdepartmental organization for psychological warfare planning, the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Organization. This group, established pursuant to a Presidential Directive, is comprised of representatives of the Departments of State and Defense, the National Security Resources Board, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

11. Effective psychological warfare planning must be in consonance with national aims and the strategic concept of military plans. It is therefore essential that all psychological warfare plans be critically examined in the light of both political and military considerations.

12. Evaluation of extant capabilities clearly indicates that, pending the activation of the national psychological warfare organization, certain initial assignments of responsibilities must be made. In some cases, these assignments will continue through the course of the war; in others, they may be terminated or modified following activation of a national organization. In accordance with this concept, allocations of responsibility for planning and execution of overt psychological warfare measures in the initial stages of war are set forth in the Enclosure.

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

CONCLUSIONS

13. Pending the activation of a national psychological warfare organization, certain initial assignments of responsibilities must be made.

14. Accomplishment of the overt psychological warfare mission in the initial stages of war may best be achieved by discharge of planning and operating responsibilities in the manner described in the Enclosure.

RECOMMENDATION

15. That the Director approve the above conclusions and the Enclosure as a basis for the development of further detailed plans.

SECRET

-5-

AN OUTLINE PLAN FOR OVERT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IN THE INITIAL STAGES
OF WAR
ENCLOSURE

1. Responsibilities for planning and execution of overt psychological warfare measures in the initial stages of war are hereby allocated as follows to:

a. The Secretary of State:

- (1) Formulation and development of national psychological warfare policies and plans.
- (2) Coordination of psychological warfare planning with related planning under the NSC-10 series and with planning for censorship and domestic information.
- (3) Rapid transmission of approved psychological warfare directives, guidances and materials to implementing agencies.
- (4) Control the execution of overt psychological warfare measures in areas other than theaters of military operations.
- (5) Coordination of psychological warfare planning through the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Organization. This organization shall:
 - (a) Consider the strategic aspects of psychological warfare plans.
 - (b) Coordinate psychological warfare plans with joint war plans through the planning agencies of the Department of Defense.
 - (c) Provide staff advice and assistance in facilitating the execution of approved psychological warfare plans.

~~SECRET~~

-6-

b. The Secretary of Defense:

(1) Provision of planning and coordinating assistance in connection with the development of psychological warfare plans by the Secretary of State.

(2) Provision of personnel, facilities, and logistic support for the implementation of approved psychological warfare plans in theaters of operations.

c. The Director of Central Intelligence:

(1) Provision of national foreign intelligence required for the conduct of overt psychological warfare.

(2) Continuation of research, planning, and operations which are related to the research plans and operations of overt psychological warfare.

2. In the initial stages of war, U.S. personnel engaged in overt psychological warfare operations will, in the main, be under the jurisdiction of the Departments of State and Defense. Established departmental policies and procedures governing their employment will obtain. Allied, neutral, enemy and ex-enemy personnel shall, where utilized both in the Zone of Interior and elsewhere, be governed by policies established by the U.S. Government for the employment of such individuals. Administrative procedures established by the Departments of State and Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency governing budgetary, fiscal, reporting, and accounting matters will prevail.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-7-

3. Government owned or controlled equipment required in initial operations will be made available in accordance with established priorities and procedures. Indigenous facilities outside the Continental United States, its territories and possessions, will be utilized to the maximum extent permitted by agreement with Allied and neutral authorities. Overseas emergency procurement of equipment, facilities, and expendable supplies will be accomplished in accordance with established requisition, reverse lend-lease, counter-part fund or other currently approved or indicated method.

4. Coordination shall be established and maintained with Allied psychological warfare organizations in accordance with established procedures for Allied and combined operations.

5. Instructions of the Secretary of State for implementation of approved overt psychological warfare policies and plans in areas outside theaters of operation will be transmitted by the most expeditious means available consistent with adequate security.

6. Approved overt psychological warfare policies and plans designed for implementation in theaters of military operation will be transmitted by the Secretary of State through the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

7. Approved Aims, Objectives, and Themes for the initial psychological warfare offensive are contained in Appendix 2 hereto.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

-2-

AN OUTLINE PLAN FOR OVERT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IN THE INITIAL STAGES
OF WAR

APPENDIX 1 to ENCLOSURE

INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

(T O B E D E V E L O P E D)

* * * * *

AN OUTLINE PLAN FOR OVERT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IN THE INITIAL STAGES
OF WAR

APPROVED AIMS, OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES FOR THE INITIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARFARE OFFENSIVE

APPENDIX 2 to ENCLOSURE

(T O B E D E V E L O P E D)

SECRET